

 Diocese of Chichester

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens

Channels of God's love

Every year, the Oxford English Dictionary tells us what the 'word of the year' was. In 2023, it was, apparently, 'rizz'. Coined by Generation Z, this slang term is all about charisma, style and the ability to attract others.

St Paul, in his letters, refers to a variety of gifts being poured out upon the Church, for the building up of her life and the advancement of the Gospel. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, pouring the love of God into our hearts, whereby we can share our faith and inspire others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Evangelisation is nothing less the grace of revealing the beauty and truth of God in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that is the primary charism of the Church.

As Churchwardens, you have been called out from among your local church and community by those who have seen something of this charism in you, manifest in the variety of gifts that the Holy Spirit gives in the service of God that you may encourage and, alongside your clergy and others, become channels of God's love and presence in the world.

St Thomas Aquinas lists 24 charisms in the life of the Church! Space doesn't allow me to go into all of them, but I would pick out administration, encouragement, evangelism, faith, giving, hospitality, intercessory prayer, knowledge, leadership, service and wisdom from among them as being especially pertinent for those of you called to this ministry within the life your parish.

Through the faithful living out of one or more of these gifts the Holy Spirit will continue to renew and strengthen the life and charism of the Church, that through worship, celebration of the sacraments, proclamation of the Gospel, care for the poor, the sick, the lonely and the unloved, all may be drawn into the peace and unity of the Kingdom which is his will and purpose for all nations and peoples.

The Ven. Luke Irvine-Capel
Archdeacon of Chichester



The Venerable Martin Lloyd Williams
Archdeacon of Brighton & Lewes



The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel
Archdeacon of Chichester



The Venerable Edward Dowler
Archdeacon of Hastings



The Venerable Angela Martin
Archdeacon of Horsham

Think and act in ways that are environmentally liberating

There is great joy to be discovered in engagement with the Church's environmental agenda. Creation care and the pursuit of protecting biodiversity are immensely lifegiving activities.

This is why, on 73 occasions in the gospels, Jesus referred to himself as the Son of Man. That might be translated as the human one, the second Adam, the one from the earth. Colossians 1.16 & 17 says, "All things have been created in him [Jesus] and for him... in him all things hold together."

It would be fair to say that creation care is the very mission of God. To put your hands in the soil or your feet in the sea is to experience divine handiwork, stuff crafted personally by Jesus Christ and entrusted to us.

In 2023, the Diocese of Chichester endorsed a roadmap to move us towards net carbon zero by 2030. This is consistent with the Church of England's national Routemap [this is the CoFE term]. Essentially, there are two components to our roadmap.

The first is to work hard at reducing the carbon footprint created by our parsonage properties, our schools and our church buildings. This is an extremely challenging task. We currently emit 13,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide each year. We have successfully applied for funding from the national Church to take on a programme manager, a fundraiser and schools project manager to help us with the heavy lifting involved with reducing these emissions. Steve Collins started as the programme manager on 1st February this year, and we will be sharing him with the dioceses of Guildford and Portsmouth.



Revd Buff Stone
Diocesan Environment Officer

After many years offering huge encouragement to parishes across our diocese, the Revd Debbie Beer has stepped down as Diocesan Environment Officer and is to be succeeded by the Revd Buff Stone. Buff will continue the work started by Debbie of encouraging parishes and Christians across Sussex to think and act in ways that are environmentally liberating. This is the second component of our environmental strategy.

Buff is creating a network of parishes and Christians throughout the diocese who can support and encourage one another towards attaining Eco Church Awards, working with local communities (young people in particular), raising awareness of how to respond to the environmental crisis in ways that are authentically Christian, and pursuing this essentially missional work in the most creative of ways. There will be a diocesan Environment Day on 15th June 2024 at St Mark's Holbrook, near Horsham.

How can you help?

Take a look at registering your church for Eco Church through A Rocha. This is a really simple way to start your eco journey. There are many churches registered, working towards, Bronze, Silver and even Gold Awards.

Please encourage your PCC to include a standing item on the PCC agenda for eco development. Find out who your deanery eco rep is. You can contact Buff Stone by emailing:

✉ environment.officer@chichester.anglican.org
🌐 www.facebook.com/ParishEnvironmentSupportNetwork

The Ven. Martin Lloyd-Williams
Archdeacon of Brighton & Lewes



Enhance your church's fundraising efforts

Whether you're raising funds for new facilities, building repairs, youth worker recruitment, or daily running costs, the Ecclesiastical Fundraising Hub provides resources to aid your church's growth in fundraising. This practical hub is organised into user-friendly steps, each offering information, guidance and tools, regardless of your fundraising experience.

Explore a wealth of articles, blogs and supporting documents on various topics such as digital fundraising, capital projects, understanding the grants process and forming fundraising teams. Access a free searchable list of church funders providing grants, along with tailored fundraising support for small rural churches.

Also, to support time-constrained churches and volunteers, looking for quick information on the diverse fundraising landscape, the hub offers concise, insightful bitesize videos addressing key fundraising issues. Additionally, sign up for live, free webinars conducted in collaboration with Philanthropy Company across 2024. For additional help, call the fundraising helpline below.

📞 0345 601 9959

🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising



An update from grant-making charity, Benefact Trust



BENEFACT TRUST

Every day, Benefact Trust, the charitable owner of Benefact Group, witnesses the crucial role churches and charities play in our communities. Since the Trust was established in 1972, it has awarded over £256m in funding to support these organisations to thrive and make a positive

impact in society. Benefact Trust's grants support a range of causes and there are many heart-warming stories to be found on the website.

🌐 www.benefacttrust.co.uk/news



Nominate your church for a chance to win



The Movement for Good Awards programme is back again with grants of £1,000 and more to give to churches and charities. Ecclesiastical is proudly part of the Benefact Group, who are giving away over £1 million to churches and charities in the 2024 Movement for Good Awards.

£1,000 draws are now open for nominations

- You can nominate your church or favourite charity for the £1,000 draw.
- You can nominate as many charities as you like; it's one nomination per charity per person.

There are six £1,000 draws this year giving away between £50,000 and £120,000 in each. Once you've nominated, share your nomination, and get your friends and family to support too.

Did you know?

The Movement for Good Awards has gifted over £5.75 million to more than 2,500 charities since the initiative started in 2019.

Last year, A Rocha UK was awarded £5,000 in the Environment and Climate special draw. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and is committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.

Also, in 2023, £11,000 was awarded to 10 church-related charities through the £1,000 Movement for Good Awards; Kilkenny Christian Centre in ROI actually won twice! So please get nominating; next time it could be your church! You can find out more at:

🌐 www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical

Contains promotional material

Would you like to sign up for e-news?

The monthly e-news is full of useful information to support you in areas such as fundraising, church security and environmental impact. Signing up is easy and you can unsubscribe whenever you choose. Many of Ecclesiastical's customers have chosen to receive this and we hope you would like to join them.

 www.ecclesiastical.com/signup



Financial support for your 2025 sabbatical

Established in 1987, the Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs) have assisted over 1,400 clergy members in funding a variety of extended leave projects.


The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a positive and long-lasting impact on your church and community. One of the 2023 recipients, the Rev'd. Heston Groenewald, vicar of All Hallows Church in Leeds, received a bursary to support his local interfaith ministry.

He visited India and Pakistan to experience and learn more about the diverse cultures and customs that make up the fabric of the local community. On his trip, Heston experienced the Holi festival in India and celebrated Easter with Christians and Muslims in Lahore.

“ The MBA grant enabled an amazing adventure around India and Pakistan and so has been a valuable, wonderful investment in my wellbeing and in my local interfaith ministry. ” **Rev'd. Heston Groenewald**

The application window for the 2025 MBA programme is now open and closes in September 2024. In 2025, we are particularly keen to see more sabbaticals which aim to support the drive for net zero carbon.

If you would like to find out more about the Awards, including eligibility criteria and application details, please visit:

 www.ecclesiastical.com/mba



Invest in making a difference

Worries about social matters, our planet and the environment are factors most of us think about daily. To do more to help address these concerns, there is increasing interest from people looking to invest ethically in accordance with their principles.

What is ethical investing?

Richard Wood, Director of Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (pictured below), explains, "Put simply, ethical investments allow people to invest without sacrificing their environmental, social, moral or religious principles while at the same time aiming to make a profitable return."



Ethical investment funds can be screened using negative or positive criteria. For negatively screened funds, the fund manager will, for example, be screening investments to avoid a range of activities considered harmful – such as companies involved in manufacturing tobacco.

When using positive screening, fund managers actively identify companies that make a positive

social impact or who invest sustainably and/or responsibly. They will have, for example, good corporate governance and employment practices as well as being active in making a positive impact on the environment.

To find out more about ethical investing, contact Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services today.

 **0800 107 0190**
 **getadvice@ecclesiastical.com**
 **www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice**

Please note: The value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. Your capital is at risk.

Looking for help to go green?

Give your parishioners a warm welcome!

We all want our church buildings to be welcoming spaces for both prayer and for wider community activities, but particularly in the chilly months, keeping buildings warm is a challenge and can be costly and harmful to the environment.

Wherever you are in your journey to reduce your church's carbon emissions, Ecclesiastical would like to help. For example, they would like to spread the word about some interesting innovations that they've come across recently.

Warming chandeliers

St Matthew's has been trialling innovative radiant heating chandeliers in their church in Bristol. These chandeliers use a very gentle wavelength of heat, like that of the winter sun, and they warm just the space needed, not the whole church. They have proved much cheaper to run than a central heating system and can help to lower your carbon footprint.



Through the Movement for Good awards, Ecclesiastical awarded a £35,000 grant to St Matthew's in 2023, which will allow them to make the trial installation permanent. If you would like to consider applying for a similar grant, further information can be found on page 3. Also, if you wish to install this type of heating, please let the Ecclesiastical Underwriters

know, so that they can advise on any potential insurance implications and ensure the system itself is covered.

Heated cushions

Another innovation, helping church communities take steps to reduce their carbon emissions by warming people not spaces, is a heated seat cushion! These are powered by lithium-ion batteries which are widely used as a power source in portable electrical products. However,



if you do choose this option, it is important to select seat cushions and fabrics that have an appropriate fire performance and to follow the guidance on charging the cushions. Cushions should comply with British Standards and have the CE mark. If you think that this is an option for you, you will find guidance about the cushions here:

www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/church-heated-cushions

Ecclesiastical has also developed a new Made Simple guide, which can support you on your journey to make your church buildings more environmentally friendly. It includes information about other alternative heating systems like heat pumps, information about LED lighting and much more.

www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple

If you have any tips that have helped your church in its environmental journey, why not drop Ecclesiastical an email and they can share your ideas in their monthly digital newsletter.

weboffice@ecclesiastical.com



Insurance made simple!

As church insurance experts, Ecclesiastical is well placed to help you navigate many of the complicated insurance responsibilities of your church. They have created a series of 'Made Simple' guides which highlight potential risks and insurance implications of the day-to-day running of churches.



The guides also offer help with activities and projects that PCCs often become involved in, which include:

- Climate change and your church
- Administering insurance
- Building works
- Church events
- Church property
- Church valuation
- Community outreach
- Digital technology
- Legal expenses
- People on church premises
- Unoccupied buildings

You can find lots more information at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple

Herschel Infrared



Funeral planning

As you know, funerals can be costly, but Ecclesiastical can help you make provisions to reduce the financial worry for your family when the time comes and ensure your wishes are provided for.¹

¹ Terms and conditions apply – see website for details.

☎ **0800 055 6503**
✉ **info@epsfunerals.com**
🌐 **www.funeralplans.co.uk**

Car insurance

Ecclesiastical's Clergy Motor Insurance has been tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, unlimited windscreen cover and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.¹ To find out more about the benefits of this policy, get in touch with Ecclesiastical.

☎ **0345 450 9396**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance**
¹ Subject to terms and conditions



Month by month support



So you can better look after your church and parishioners, Ecclesiastical has again produced their easy-to-view calendar to help you plan maintenance activities throughout the year.

🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-calendar**

Insure your home with Ecclesiastical and they will donate £130 to a church of your choice

Trust130 is just one of the ways in which Ecclesiastical gives back to the community; for every new direct home insurance policy taken out, Ecclesiastical offers to donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.¹

Since 2017, Ecclesiastical has donated over £500,000 to more than 2,500 churches in the UK.

A £130 donation really helped **St Peter's Church in Parwich**. Church Treasurer **Stuart Chambers** told Ecclesiastical:

“ If you're short of numbers, it's a big job keeping everything ship-shape. I have a ride-on mower, but you can't get to the actual graves on that so inevitably they can look a bit unkempt, which is a real shame. ”

With the £130 donation, St Peter's was able to keep its graveyard looking neat and tidy by paying for a man with a strimmer.

Award-winning home insurance

As well as supporting your church, when you take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical you are joining one of the most trusted home insurance providers with the happiest customers.²



Ecclesiastical continued to top the Fairer Finance league table in Spring 2024 for home insurance for a record 19th consecutive time, retaining the gold ribbon status. Their buildings and contents cover is also a Which? Best Buy and it was voted the best home insurance in the Times Money Mentor Awards in 2023.³



Get a home insurance quote

Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer who understands the needs of those working in the church and for the church. Their policy helps to protect your home and takes into account the extra duties you carry out for the church.

☎ **0345 777 3322** and quote **CHOPS24**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance**

¹ Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130-terms ² www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance ³ www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance

Archdeacons' loans



Churchwardens often carry a heavy load when it comes to the repair of church buildings. They are owed a great debt of gratitude by clergy and parishioners alike for carrying this often-heavy burden.

Archdeacons are notoriously obsessed by the drains and rightly so: a staggering proportion of damage to church buildings is caused by water ingress because of such issues. The regular (twice or three times a year) clearing out of gutters and 'rainwater goods' so that excess water can drain away from your church building will pay for itself many times over.

However, if there is damage to the church or church hall, it is possible to apply for an Archdeacon's loan. These come from several funds that are available to the Diocesan Board of Finance.

This can only be used for repairs and is not available for other projects, however desirable, such as reordering. A set of notes about the loan is available from your Archdeacon but, essentially, if the incumbent and PCC are agreed that they would like to apply for a loan, they can do so, providing annual accounts and a PCC resolution.

The loans are given interest free over a maximum period of seven years, to a maximum amount of £50,000. There are limited funds so sadly there are no guarantees, and parishes who do not have the money to pay for repairs will for obvious reasons be given priority over those who do.

It's important to note that the Archdeacon will seek a guarantee (so far as it can be given) that Parish Share will not be reduced during the period of the loan. The Archdeacon will also want to see an outline plan of how the PCC intends to find the funds to repay the loan, such as through fundraising or increased income from the improved building.

So, if you are struggling with repairs to a church building, please do feel free to contact your Archdeacon or one of the church buildings team – it will never be an imposition: that is what we are here for. It may be that seeking an Archdeacon's loan is the way forward or it may be that other suggestions might be considered but we are here to help and share the burdens as part of the one household and the one body.

The Ven. Edward Dowler
Archdeacon of Hastings

Church Buildings Update Evenings

The Church Buildings Update Evenings are aimed at Churchwardens and clergy and will take place on the following four evenings in the autumn:

- **Wednesday 18th September** – Archdeaconry of Chichester
- **Wednesday 25th September** – Archdeaconry of Hastings
- **Wednesday 2nd October** – Archdeaconry of Horsham
- **Tuesday 8th October** – Archdeaconry of Brighton and Lewes

Further information, including venues, details of the programme, and booking information, will follow later this spring.

Church Buildings Support Officer

Sophie Allen

Sophie Allen was appointed to the role of Church Buildings Support Officer and started working at Church House in Hove in November 2023, having previously worked at a small planning consultancy working with historic buildings and archaeology.



For this issue of Archdeacons' Visitation News, Sophie describes her role and how she can help Churchwardens with any issues relating to the care and repair of church buildings:

"My academic background is in ecclesiastical architecture, and I've always been enthusiastic about church buildings of all kinds.

"I'm used to talking to local authorities about issues affecting Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and other buildings, historic and modern.

"The 'Church Buildings Support Officer' role is a new one, funded by the Church Buildings Council's Buildings for Mission Fund. Most dioceses across the country have appointed a CBSO, and others are still being appointed to meet various local needs. Here in the Diocese of Chichester, my role is mostly focused around the management of church buildings – I am available to help parishes plan maintenance work, repairs and building projects of all kinds.

"I work closely with the DAC team on permissions for building works here at Church House, and I can help to explain how the faculty and List B permissions systems work in tandem with the secular planning system.

"I'm currently working to update the DAC's records, and to ensure that every church has an up-to-date Quinquennial Inspection – many clergy and wardens have already received emails from me about this.

"Please contact me if your church is overdue for a Quinquennial, or if you don't currently have a working relationship with an Inspecting Architect.

"Sometimes the only way to really understand the various issues at play is to visit the churches in person, so you can always contact me to arrange a visit, or to discuss any building repairs that have come up in your regular inspections.

The best way to get in touch with me is by email:

✉ sophie.allen@chichester.anglican.org or on
☎ **01273 425699**

I usually work from Church House, though I am often out on visits, so please do leave me a message if I don't pick up."

God's own little acre



Our churchyards are often referred to as God's own little acre. This probably stems from the area of land originally given for the purpose of building a church. These small patches of land whether they be situated in an urban or a rural environment are in fact compact time capsules.

Not just because they are the resting place for all those who have gone before and a remembrance of the lives of loved ones lost but because they hold in the soil the treasure of future promise.

Our churchyards are essentially land which has remained uncultivated for centuries. In a time when we are keenly aware of the huge loss of biodiversity due to our over cultivation, overuse of pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizers, churchyards could be the springboard that nature is calling for.

It is lovely to walk through the grounds of a well-loved and maintained churchyard, but it is equally lovely to see the evidence of ancient woodland within these places of rest and tranquillity. In my own churchyard we have been cheered this year by seeing once again the great carpet of snowdrops gently covering the ground.

Ancient woodlands offer a unique collection of plants and fungi, and many can be traced back to when they first appeared on maps created around the 1600s. In some cases, our churchyards are much older being often set on pre-existing sacred sites. We have evidence of yew trees many hundreds of years old and huge patches of wood anemone and sometimes even the odd patch of Lilly-of-the-valley along with the fluffy lichen we see attached to branches of the trees and shrubs. All of which create a rich variety of wild uncultivated plants and all strong indicators of ancient woodland.

We are all aware of the 5 Marks of Mission but how many of us give as much thought as we ought to the 5th Mark which is 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth'?

For all those who care for a churchyard I would like to encourage you to give some considered thought to how that wonderful sacred and ancient space is managed. This can be an excellent way of fulfilling the commission we have in the 5th Mark of Mission and an exciting way to encourage the next generation to be involved.

Why not consider joining in with 'Love Your Burial Ground Week' and 'Churches Count on Nature' between 8th and 16th June this year, which is a collaboration between the charity 'Caring for God's Acre', the Church of England and the Church of Wales and A Rocha UK.



To find out more, you can visit the Churches Count on Nature page at: www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk. And if you haven't already done so why not think about becoming an Eco Church – you can find out more at A Rocha UK.

 www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk

As Pope Francis sets out in his encyclical letter of 2015 *Laudato Si'*, we have one common home, and we must care for it as it cares for us.

The Ven. Angela Martin
Archdeacon of Horsham



For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com

Facebook: Ecclesiastical  [@churchmatters](https://twitter.com/churchmatters)

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